
KNAPP - WARDEN, LLC
ARCHITECTURE & PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING

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Dear Iowa Finance Authority Committee:

Indian Creek Nature Center was "green" decades before the current trend. The Nature Center was pursuing LEED for existing building status for approximately two years prior to the June 2008 Flood. Now, with global climate change, increasingly unpredictable weather, and the realistic likelihood of future flooding, the Nature Center is proposing three significant changes. The first is renovating its existing building to minimize future flood damage and reduce runoff that contributes to downstream flooding. The second is, while making the significant needed repairs to the existing gravel parking lot, including elements to decrease much of the runoff. Additionally, a new administrative building will be built on higher ground. The facility will be designed to exceed the model energy code set by the State of Iowa and all appliances and equipment will exceed Energy Star® Standards.

With these proposed projects the Nature Center's ultimate goal is to increase awareness of and educate the public regarding options available in creating a built environment. By visibly demonstrating greener, cleaner, safer and more efficient systems, the Nature Center will educate thousands of visitors, members and students about being responsible and prudent caretakers of the earth.

The Indian Creek Nature Center plans for its new administrative building to be a working educational exhibit that is respectful of the environment. To that end, the primary administration, educational and exhibit areas will be relocated to higher ground on a south hillside. Earth sheltered on three sides, the new building will front the southern exposure with sun controlled, light harvesting glass and window treatments that minimize the need for artificial lighting, thus reducing electrical lighting needs and keeping the building cooler. The Nature Center will continue to harvest the sun by adding to its active solar arrays and increasing exported green electricity back to the grid.

The HVAC (Heating, Ventilating, Air Conditioning) for the facility will harvest therms from the Earth's soils via a 15-foot deep closed loop, ground source geothermal system that will convert ground temperatures from the minus fifteen foot level to the seasonal cooling or heating demands within the various climate controlled sectors of the building.

I encourage you to support the Nature Center's proposal. If you have any questions please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



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